

MAR 30 2001

Ref. # 5418

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

YVES MALECOT ET AL

U.S. Serial No. 09/744,946

Group Art Unit 1724

Filed: February 8, 2001

FILTERING ELEMENT MADE OF
 ABSORBENT PAPER MATERIAL IN
 THE FORM OF A TUBULAR CYLINDER

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Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a preliminary amendment in the above-
 identified application.

No additional fee is required.
 An additional fee is required as calculated below -

	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra Rate Fee	Small Entity Add'l Rate	Other Than A Small Entity Add'l Rate
Total	0	Minus * 0	0 x \$ 9 \$ 0	x \$18 \$ 0	
Indep	0	Minus * 0	0 x \$40 \$ 0	x \$80 \$ 0	
First Presentation of Mul Dep Claim....		x\$135	\$ 0	x\$270	\$ 0
		Total Additional Fee.....	\$ 0	\$ 0

* The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number of claims filed originally or highest number found from equivalent box of a prior amendment.

This amendment is being filed within the period for response.
 Applicant(s) hereby petition for an extension from the date of the Examiner's Action as follows:
 — First-Month Extension..... \$ 55.00 / \$ 110.00
 — Second-Month Extension..... \$ 195.00 / \$ 390.00
 — Third-Month Extension..... \$ 445.00 / \$ 890.00
 Small entity status of this application has been established.

A check in the amount of \$ _____ is attached hereto. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-3690 of the undersigned attorney. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

By *Mary Brainer*
 Attorney of Record, Reg. No. 33,161

Date: March 30, 2001
 (703) 684-6885

5418/dlm

"PATENT APPLICATION"

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FILTERING ELEMENT MADE OF
ABSORBENT PAPER MATERIAL
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CYLINDER

Alexandria, Virginia
March 30, 2001

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to action by the Examiner in the captioned application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice.

Add new claims 13-25 as follows:

3633 -- 13 (New) A filter element for filtering a fluid in a filter system comprising a cylindrical case, said filter element comprising an absorbent paper material in sheet form configured to constitute a tubular cylinder inside said cylindrical case in a manner to partition an outer radial part from an inner radial part, wherein fluid is able to move across the filter element in a substantially centripetal direction, and wherein the filter element is devoid of a central core.

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